

Quintus

Melbourne
September 2, 1957

Dear Bob:

Well, we've finally settled here after having hopped about as much as I'd care to. Rubbo arranged a very elegant and comfortable (but fabulously expensive) flat for us, overlooking the Yarra River & if we don't enjoy that part of our stay, there's something wrong with us. But even at that, the heating arrangements are primitive-- and considering there was a heavy frost last night, you can't think of Melbourne as tropical! (Even though spring officially started here yesterday.)

Brisbane and the Heron Island excursion were strenuous but quite worth the effort. I did make some further inquiries there, and it looks (1) that the prices ~~we~~ you already have for the flock pigeon must be quite general, the other two species being even rarer, and (2) the red tape of getting both a Queensland State and a Commonwealth exportation permit is such that you had better work through the Taronga Zoo. This seems to leave the matter just where it was to begin with. If you mean to place a firm order in reserve, you would probably do as well to continue your direct correspondence, but if I can help in any way please let me know.

As you know, we are obligated to remain here till Nov. 2; our detailed return plans are still indefinite. It is quite possible that the progress of research will make it advantageous to have some freedom of action. All this is well within ~~the~~ the terms of our previous understanding.

By implication, I gather that the Medical School Executive Committee has approved Atwood's proposed appointment. Dean Bowers is now proceeding with ways and means of financing, before a definite offer can be made. I rest confident that you would let me know of any developments a propos Hershey. I also trust that the matter of Bill's promotion has gone forward smoothly.

Bette has been forwarding our mail, and would you confirm to her that it appears to be arriving smoothly, and with my thanks. One other note: I will be forwarding a revised ms. to Jackie St. Clair for correction. If it should happen that she is away when it arrives, would Bette deal with it directly? I just don't recall when Jackie said she'd be taking her vac.

With best regards,

[Signature]